

species. The information regarding poaching of deer, wild boar, sambhar, hare and peacock is not compiled and collated at the level of Central Government.

Death of white tiger in Delhi Zoo

4615. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the white tiger born last year in Delhi Zoo is dead;

(b) if so, the reasons for its death; and

(c) the action proposed to ensure increase of white tigers in Delhi Zoo?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) Three white tiger cubs born on 16th June, 2000 died on 20-6-2000, 22-6-2000 and 10-7-2000 respectively. The mother disowned the cubs and stopped feeding. All the efforts were made to save the cubs by hand rearing in the zoo hospital. However, all the three cubs developed various complications and died on the dates mentioned above. Measures taken to ensure conservation of white tigers in Delhi Zoo include improved upkeep and better health care of animals.

Forest Development Agencies in States

4616. PROF. (SHRIMATI) BHARATI RAY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that only seventeen States have set up Forest Development Agencies so far in their territorial-wildlife divisions;

(b) whether Central Government are persuading the remaining State Governments to develop these agencies, so as to increase forest areas all over the country;

(c) if so, what have been the results of Central Government efforts; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

[27 April, 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (d) A total of nineteen States have so far set up Forest Development Agencies in their territorial wildlife divisions. The remaining State Governments have been requested by the Central Government for expeditious setting up of Forest Development Agencies in their respective States.

Deterioration in air quality

4617. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the ambient air quality has deteriorated all over the country, especially in urban and semi-urban areas;
- (b) if so, the magnitude of this deterioration; and
- (c) the steps taken by Government to solve the problem?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) The ambient air quality is monitored regularly through a network of monitoring stations under the National Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Programme. The annual averages of criteria air pollutants in major cities were found by and large below their prescribed limits in case of sulphur dioxide and oxides of nitrogen. However, the ambient levels of suspended particulate matter were found more than the prescribed standards in most of the areas of major cities mainly due to vehicular emissions, industrial activities, geographical and meteorological conditions.

(c) The steps taken by Government to control air pollution include the following:

- (1) Emission standards have been notified under the Environmental Protection Act, 1986.
- (2) Industries have been directed to instal necessary pollution control equipment before commissioning their plants.
- (3) Industries are required to take consents from the respective State Pollution Control Boards under the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 as amended in 1987.
- (4) Emission standards for on-road vehicles and mass emission standards for new vehicles have been notified under the